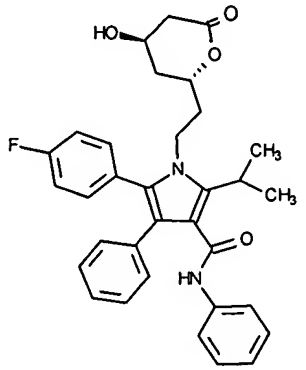
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium which comprises:

(a) hydrolysis of the atorvastatin lactone of formula II



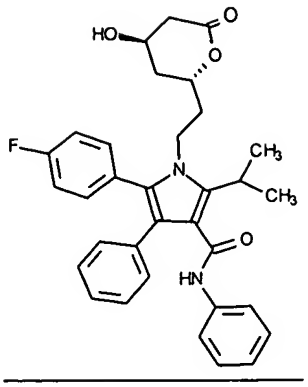
to form atorvastatin sodium salt solution;

(b) addition of the atorvastatin sodium salt solution to an aqueous calcium chloride or calcium acetate solution; and

(c) isolation by filtration and drying to afford amorphous atorvastatin calcium salt.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the hydrolysis of atorvastatin lactone of formula II



is accomplished using sodium hydroxide, resulting in an atorvastatin sodium salt solution.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The process of claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the ~~solution of~~ atorvastatin sodium salt solution ~~in water and methanol~~ is added to an aqueous ~~a solution of~~ calcium chloride or calcium acetate solution ~~in water~~ containing seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium.

Claim 5 (original): The process of claim 4 wherein the quantity of seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium is in the range of from about 0.05 to about 10 weight percent relative to the atorvastatin lactone.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process of claim 4 [[5]] where the quantity of seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5 weight percent relative to the atorvastatin lactone.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The process of claim 4 [[6]] where the quantity of seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium is in the range of from about 0.2 weight percent relative to the atorvastatin lactone.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The process of claim ~~any one of claims~~ 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the ~~solution of~~ atorvastatin sodium salt solution ~~in water and methanol~~ is added to a ~~solution of~~ calcium chloride or calcium acetate solution ~~in water~~ without seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium.

Claim 9 (original): The process of claim 3, wherein the stoichiometry of the sodium hydroxide relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.85 to about 1.05 equivalents.

Claim 10 (original): The process of claim 3, wherein the stoichiometry of the sodium hydroxide relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.9 to about 1.0 equivalents.

Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 3, wherein the stoichiometry of the sodium hydroxide relative to atorvastatin lactone is about 0.98 equivalents.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ where the stoichiometry of calcium chloride or calcium acetate relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.4 to 1.5 equivalents.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ where the stoichiometry of calcium chloride or calcium acetate relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.45 to 0.55 equivalents.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ where the stoichiometry of calcium chloride or calcium acetate relative to atorvastatin lactone is from about 0.5 equivalents.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the hydrolysis reaction requires from about 1 to 24 hours.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the hydrolysis reaction requires from about 10 to 20 hours.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the hydrolysis reaction requires from about 12 to 14 hours.

Claim 18 (currently amended): Amorphous atorvastatin calcium substantially free of residual solvents when prepared by the process of any of claims 1, 3, 4 or 8.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The process of any of claims 1, [[2,]] 3, 4 or 8 wherein the product is substantially free of residual solvents.

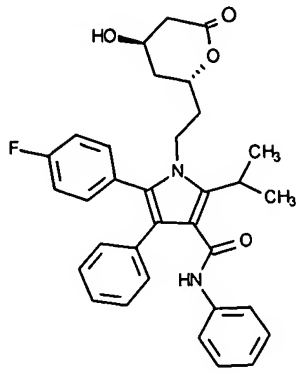
Claim 20 (currently amended): The use of amorphous atorvastatin calcium when prepared by the process of claim 19 ~~substantially free of residual solvents~~ in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for treating hypercholesterolemia.

Claim 21 (original): For use in inhibiting cholesterol synthesis in a human suffering from hypercholesterolemia, a compound of claim 18.

Claim 22 (original): The compound of claim 18 wherein the residual solvents are selected from water and methanol.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium which comprises:

(a) hydrolysis of the atorvastatin lactone of formula II



to form atorvastatin salt solution;

(b) addition of the atorvastatin salt solution to an aqueous calcium salt solution; and

(c) isolation by filtration and drying to afford amorphous atorvastatin calcium salt.

Claim 24 (currently amended): Use of amorphous atorvastatin calcium substantially free of residual solvents when prepared by the process of claim 19 in the treatment of hypercholesterolemia.